



(743)

**MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMISSION**

Wednesday, October 9, 2013

6:00 p.m.

City of Huntington Beach
Civic Center Council Chambers
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648

Vice Chair Rechsteiner called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. and Miller led the Pledge of Allegiance.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Albert Gasparian; David Hubbard; Bridget Kaub; Roy Miller; Brian Rechsteiner; Norm Westwell

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Burkart (excused); Jay Kreitz (excused); Nick Tomaino (excused).

STAFF PRESENT: Janeen Laudenback; David Dominguez; Denny Bacon, Mary Loadsman

PRESENTATIONS: None.

MINUTES:

Motion: Moved by Kaub, seconded by Miller to approve the Community Services Commission minutes as amended for August 14, 2013.

As Amended to read under Commission and Staff Comments: Westwell added to his earlier request for Information Items updates from staff to include the new senior center, bluff/seawall erosion and the Harbour View play equipment replacement project. He also requested the issue concerning the lack of water quality testing by government agency of the Huntington Beach Lakes be agendaized for a future meeting.

Ayes: Gasparian; Hubbard; Kaub; Miller; Rechsteiner; Westwell

Absent: Burkart; Kreitz; Tomaino

Motion passed. (6-0)

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

Brad Harrison, a resident living adjacent to Bartlett Park, expressed concerns on the safety and cleanliness of the park. Prior to the chain link fence going up and the number of homeless people currently living in the park, the park was in better condition and safer to use.

Craig Billington, a resident living by Bartlett Park expressed concern regarding the retention basin, flood control, and park maintenance. He is in support of providing a park and play area conducive for use by the Landmark residents and for clearing woodland areas to deter unauthorized encampments that are a danger to children and the community.

Mike Cohen, a resident living near Bartlett Park commented his concern is not the Master Plan, but park maintenance, and the issues with transients and debris. He asked that something be done now to clean-up the park and to have the police patrol on a daily basis.

Mick Rivera, a resident living by Bartlett Park, concurred with Mr. Cohen regarding the issues with transients and the need to clean-up the park. He noted that fighting between the transients happens at all hours of the night. While the Police Department does send helicopters at night, it is difficult to see what is happening through the canopy of trees where the transients live.

Lori Levasheff, a resident living adjacent to Bartlett Park for 36 years said her children played in the park and that during 70's and most of the 80's it was a safe, quiet neighborhood. Since the late 80's, undesirable activities have increased including teenage partying, drug trafficking and population of homeless. There is a grove of trees that provide protection for the homeless and anyone else. Residents have not felt safe in their homes for many years.

Stan Levasheff, a resident living adjacent to Bartlett Park reiterated his wife's comments adding they were grateful to the City for the clean-up that was done a couple of years ago. He noted that at that time he thought the plan was to keep the park cleaned up so police officers would have a clear view through the park. He expressed concerns for the newer families with young children and fears that the teenage drinking and number of homeless at the park puts the young children in the neighborhood at risk. It would be a tragedy if something happens, so let's not wait until something happens before addressing the issues concerning the park.

Suzanne Messina, a resident living near Bartlett Park, expressed concerns over the teenagers inebriated at the park. She reiterated that immediate action needs to happen to clean-up the park and address resident concerns. She understands that Fish & Game allowed the park clean-up in September saying there is more to do.

DIRECTOR ITEMS: Laudenback reported staff member Erin Burke, College Intern II for the Youth Sports Program was crowned Miss Huntington Beach for 2013. The tradition of Miss Huntington Beach spans over 100 years, with the idea of serving the community and providing a positive role model. In addition to her community duties, Erin will receive a scholarship to assist with her continuing education.

PUBLIC INPUT MEETING: None.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS: None.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Bartlett Park – Dominguez thanked the citizens for attending the information meeting. He also thanked staff from Public Works and the Police Department for sitting in the audience to hear public comments. He introduced David Volz of David Volz Design and Denny Bacon, Public Works Maintenance Operations Manager to assist with questions regarding the master plan and park maintenance activities. He noted he would address many of the questions and concerns brought up during oral communications.

Laudenback responded to the Ad Hoc Committee questions, explaining that Council Members Jill Hardy, Joe Carchio and Joe Shaw have asked to meet with staff quarterly for an update on the progress for Bartlett Park. Prior to the progress meetings, Staff will contact interested parties for their comments and share with the Council members. The first meeting is planned for January 2014.

Dominguez provided an overview of the park noting Bartlett Park consisted of 28 acres with 26 acres of undeveloped parkland, the topography of the site and the sensitivity of the black willow area and the service road that serves the retention basin for maintenance activities. He noted there are many challenges to the development of the park including environmental and archeological impacts. He indicated the area that appears to be the most conducive for development, the upper bluff portion toward Yorktown, is the area that is most archeologically sensitive.

Dominguez explained that with the approval of the park master plan, the environmental issues are being addressed for each phase of park improvements. The City approved funding to update the Opportunities and Constraints in 2009 which allowed for the development of the master plan. After several public input meetings the Community Services Commission and City Council approved the park Master Plan in 2010. This year, the City has included funding in the FY 2014/15 Capital Improvement Project budget to address environmental concerns, complete plans and specifications and begin implementation of Phase 1 improvements.

He explained the steps for implementation of Phase I include the initial study for that address environmental and archeological conditions and the entitlement process which will include a Conditional Use Permit and a Zoning Map Amendment to bring consistency between the City's General Plan and Zoning Map.

Denny Bacon explained that Public Works has filed the permit application with the Department of Fish & Game to perform maintenance activities at Bartlett Park. He commented that the recent clean-up only allows for the removal of man-made items and that generally only non-native vegetation (alive or dead) can be removed. The permit will allow the removal of dead native vegetation in addition to trimming activities. It will also allow the City to clean up and remove more vegetation to allow the police to access the service road.

Dominguez explained that the intent of the city is to perform regularly scheduled maintenance activities to allow for greater access and visibility. Landenback advised that staff is working to help generate volunteer support from the community to work on clean-up activities on a regular basis.

Dominguez reviewed the details of the Phase I improvements explaining the idea is to create a 12 foot wide multi-use path that would go around the park in a loop trail system. The path would also support vehicle access to assist with maintenance and surveillance activities. A themed tot lot, interpretive art and signage will also be part of the Phase I improvements. Additionally, the chain link fence along Coldwater would be replaced with split-rail fence.

Dominguez noted that the initial study will identify the need for mitigation measures to complete the park improvements identified in the approved master plan and that the public will have an opportunity to provide comment as part of the environmental review process. He also stated that updates on the progress for Bartlett Park will be posted on the City website.

Former Gun Range – Dominguez reported the Planning Commission has approved the Environmental Impact Report for the site. With this element complete, project concepts and cost estimates for development of the site could be better determined. He noted any development projects would be subject to review for compliance with “Measure C” per City Charter.

Central Park Slater Avenue Parking Lot Improvements – Dominguez presented a photograph of the completed parking lot improvements at Goldenwest and Slater behind the Arco station and Armstrong Nursery. The parking lot was re-graded to alleviate flooding, with runoff being directed to a new vegetated bio-swale that provides treatment of the runoff prior to entering the storm drain.

Worthy Community Park Master Plan – Dominguez reported the City Council will review the park master plan at the October 21st Council meeting. Once the plan has been approved, staff will start the entitlement process.

Blufftop Park – Dominguez reported that Public Works is working with an engineering firm to complete plans for the repairs to the sea wall at Pacific Coast Highway and 18th Street. He explained some of the obstacles include unknown utilities and structures left over from the oil production days in Huntington Beach. Once plans are complete, the project will go out to bid and once approved, move forward.

Play Equipment – Dominguez reported the State has received the grant applications for play equipment replacement at Harbour View Park and Newland Park. Once the grant contracts are received and executed, staff can move forward with the equipment replacement.

Huntington Central Park Parking Lot – Dominguez reported the City's Development Assistance Team (DAT) has reviewed the preliminary plans for a parking lot near Talbert and Goldenwest. He explained the parking lot is already a part of the approved master plan and that staff will bring the information forward as a study session item at the November 13th Commission meeting.

New Senior Center – Dominguez reported that the 75% plan submittal was received from the Architect and distributed to Fire, Public Works, Community Services, Building & Safety and Planning for review. The design team is currently in the process of developing probable cost estimates for construction.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS: Bartlett Park Public Comments

COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

COMMISSION AND STAFF COMMENTS:

Landenback thanked the Commissioners for their service.

Dominguez responded to Westwell's request to observe Bartlett Park during the evening hours and will work with the Police Department for arrangements.

Miller commented that it was great to see such a large turnout from the community living by Bartlett Park. He understands that many of the residents have been living there a long time waiting for the park development and hoped that something can be done in a timely fashion to address their concerns and park development.

Westwell noted that there are no agencies acknowledging responsibility for water quality testing of the lakes in Huntington Beach. He asked if the Commissioners would be interested in supporting a policy on water quality testing that could be placed on the agenda.

Rechsteiner asked if the Commission is the forum to prepare and present policy and noted that it may not be under the Commission's purview and may be better served by the Public Works Department.

Rechsteiner thanked Dominguez and staff for providing information to the Commission and community on Bartlett Park.

ITEMS DISTRIBUTED TO COMMISSION: None.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

David C. Dominguez, Secretary, Community Services Commission

By: Mary Loadsman, Recording Secretary